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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
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NEWSLETTER TOPICS.

NEW HIGH IN LOAN APPLICATIONS DUE TO RURAL SERVICE DEMANDS

REA's unprecedented volume of loan applications, which attained a new high in the first half of the 1946 fiscal year ending December 31, is a direct result of the increasingly insistent demand for electric service on the part of rural people, according to Administrator Claude R. Wickard.

About 55 per cent of America's farms are still without electricity, Mr. Wickard points out. Practically all of these unserved farmers have closely studied the trend toward mechanized agriculture, and know that they can keep abreast of future production goals and price trends only if they obtain central station electric service. They have wanted service for several years but were unable to obtain it because of wartime restrictions which limited new connections. With these barriers removed, hundreds of thousands of them have swamped existing co-operatives with service applications and thousands of others have joined new co-ops in localities which cannot be reached through extensions from existing systems.

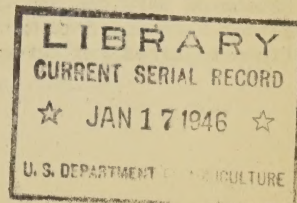
The co-ops, in turn, have flooded REA with loan applications. The result is that as the fiscal year reached the halfway point, approved and pending loan applications were more than \$117,000,000 in excess of the \$200,000,000 which Congress authorized for REA loans during the entire fiscal year.

COMPLETE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOTH ESSENTIAL AND FEASIBLE, SAYS WICKARD

In a speech before the annual convention of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation at Nashville a few weeks ago, REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard stated that the electrification of all rural areas is both essential and economically feasible.

Mr. Wickard cited three reasons why the REA program must not stop short of complete electrification of all rural homes. "First," he said, "we cannot have a decent American standard of living in rural homes which do not have electricity. Second, central station service is an absolute necessity from the standpoint of efficient and profitable farming. And third, the maximum benefit to the state and national economic welfare cannot be attained without having central station service taken to every area..."

Lightening of the burden of the farm wife and mother is electricity's most important contribution to improved rural living standards, Mr. Wickard said. He enumerated the advantages of running water, electric washing machines, ranges and numerous other electrical household devices. He pointed out that the electric refrigerator has done more than any other one thing to improve and diversify the rural diet.



Economic changes on the farm due to the use of electric milking machines, electric milk coolers, small motors, electrically operated ventilating units, hay dryers, chick and pig brooders and many other appliances, have brought about a diversification of farm enterprise which agricultural leaders have been advocating for years, the Administrator declared. "It will be but a short time until we will regard electricity as the most essential of all farm devices for increasing the efficiency and profits of farm operations," he predicted.

Administrator Wickard - a member of an Indiana co-op himself - regards the member-owned cooperative as one of the most important factors in the rural electrification program, but he warned that full benefits can be expected only if the members recognize their responsibilities and maintain an active interest in their co-op's affairs.

ELECTRIC BROODER SAVES WILD DUCKS ON MARYLAND FARM

Fulton Lewis, Jr., widely known radio commentator, recently broadcast an interesting story about how his 9-year-old son, Buddy, raises Mallard ducks with the help of electric brooders. Mr. Lewis commented that Buddy's electric brooders saved the lives of so many ducklings that would be lost if they were left with their wild mothers that "the flocks of Mallards are about to take over the farm."

The Lewis farm, on the Patuxent river in Maryland, about 65 miles from Washington, D. C., gets electric service from the REA-financed Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

This story is a timely reminder to farmers who use electric brooders for the more prosaic job of brooding chicks, turkey poults and other domestic fowl which are of more general importance to farm production and revenues.

It is important to have your brooder ready for those early broods. Look it over now and see that it is in shape to work when time comes to snap on the switch. If you have never used an electric brooder, get in step with modern times by installing one now. Experiences of tens of thousands of farmers and extensive tests by recognized authorities have demonstrated that the electric brooder will operate with less attention, less danger and at equally low or lower cost than any other type.

Better have that pig brooder ready, also. The time to save little pigs is right after they are farrowed, when they need protection chill and against the danger of mashing by an awkward sow. A quarter-ton or more of pork on the hoof, saved by a few dollars worth of electricity, will add materially to the farm profits at marketing time.

WINNERS IN 1945 BETTER FARM AND HOME METHODS ELECTRIC CONTEST

Of the 40 state winners who were awarded trips to Chicago by their State Extension Services and the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the 1945 National 4-H Better Farm and Home Methods Electric Contest, 12 came from farms served by REA-financed lines and three others from farms that are planning to receive REA service.

Three of the six national winners who were chosen at the National 4-H Congress to receive \$200 scholarships offered by an electrical equipment manufacturer were selected from the 12 state winners living on REA lines.

Duane Sellin, 16, of Norfolk, Nebraska, has been in 4-H Club work four years. The Sellin farm is served by the REA-financed Madison County Rural Public Power District. Duane helped wire his home for electricity, installed motors and repaired appliances to perform farm and home jobs. An electric welder has helped him in the building of electrical devices, among them a 14-watt public address system. He places an estimated value of \$5,324 on all of his 4-H electrical projects.

Charles Peal of Dyersburg, Tennessee, is 17 and has been a 4-H clubber eight years. He constructed an electric chick brooder, installed an automatic water system for the entire farm, wired the poultry house, built an electric fence, installed numerous ceiling and wall outlets in the home, did all the farm repair jobs and helped his fellow club members with their power problems. The Peal farm is served by lines of the Forked Deer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Hilmer A. Quarberg, 18, lives on a farm near Alma, Wisconsin, which is served by lines of the Buffalo Electric Cooperative. He has engaged in club work for nine years. Hilmer analyzed the milk cooling chore, with a view of improving the quality of their milk. He built a rubber tired milk cart, constructed a milk house over the well, installed a water thermostat in the cooling tank and put in a power hoist to load milk cans. Labor saved by his improvements enabled him to milk one additional cow, and the quality of the Quarberg milk was elevated to Grade A, increasing annual profits by \$756.

The nine other REA-served boys and girls who won state honors and trips to the Congress were Carroll Carr, Bono Arkansas; Tom Richard Kitley, Longmont, Colorado; Kenneth Martin Hall, Middletown, Delaware; Carolyn Maxey, Winder, Georgia; Rosseau Ledoux, St. Martinville, Louisiana; Johnny Newman, Portales, New Mexico; Neola Maxine Shultz, Okarche, Oklahoma; Louise Christine Buckles, Salters, South Carolina; and Herman Carroll Fowler, Lakeview, Texas. The three who live on farms which expect to get REA service are Frederic H. Berreau, Woodstock, Minnesota; Lee Vern Brotherton, Forbes, North Dakota; and Garland B. Garrette, Appomattox, Virginia.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Strong Brothers of Alvarado, Minn., energized in January 1944, and the Hotvedt Brothers of East Grand Forks, energized in October 1943, have requested that we check to see if the transformers they have are adequate for the load they plan on having. Both farms are installing electric water systems, expect to use welders and will have several other motors. These people have the right idea. We know that electricity will help them out--they are wise to plan their wiring for future needs in order to have the most efficient service. Newsletter of P.K.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc., Grand Forks, N. D.

Mr. E. L. Gooding at Pamlico had several hundred dollars worth of turkeys stolen a few weeks ago. The thief was caught and now Mr. Gooding has installed lights in his turkey yard. Plenty of light is good insurance. Thieves will be slow to bother your chickens, corn, etc. in a well lighted barnyard; even the fox and other animals keep away from lights. Newsletter of Pamlico-Beaufort Electric Membership Corporation, Grantsboro, N. C.

You can do so much work with the help of electricity, and it is so clean. Claude Smith. Newsletter of the Parke County REMC, Rockville, Indiana.

